

and the Appropriations Committee to include a similar BUILD UP set-aside in a final FY2021 appropriations package.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT EDINGTON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert Edington, a military veteran, former Alabama State Senator and Representative, prominent Mobile area lawyer, dedicated community leader and devoted husband and father. His many years of service to his state and to his country demonstrate his patriotism, his servant heart and his commitment to our American values.

Robert Edington was born in Mobile, Alabama to Judge David Henry Edington and Cornelia Owen Edington on November 18, 1929. He studied at Rhodes College as an undergraduate and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama. In addition to his distinguished military career, Robert practiced law in Mobile, Alabama for over sixty years, establishing himself as one of the pre-eminent lawyers in the area.

A veteran, Robert served on active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955, and in the Navy Active Reserve from 1955 until his retirement as a Commander in 1980. Robert's exemplary service record was evident in the many awards, medals and accolades he earned throughout his years of selfless service. As Navy Air Operations Officer, Robert was awarded the Korean Service Medal with two Battle Stars; the China Service Medal; the United Nations Service Medal; and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Robert further served his state and his country in the Alabama State Legislature, first as a State Representative from 1962 to 1970; and then as State Senator from 1970 to 1974. During his time in the State Legislature, Robert was instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama, the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and the development of Bishop State Community College. He also played a lead role in establishing the Alabama Historical Commission and was recognized for his efforts by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. with their national award.

Robert also authored legislation which created the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. Seeing his vision through, Robert served on the commission in during its creation in 1963 through 1972 and later served as its Chairman. During this period, Robert also located and arranged for the Alabama OS2U's transfer and relocation. Owing to his leadership and dedication, Robert was again appointed to the Battleship Commission in the year 2000.

Robert has also served as State President and National Director of the Navy League of the United States. In this capacity, he actively supported port visits of U.S. Navy vessels for important occasions, including Mardi Gras. He has also served as President of the CSS Alabama Association USA, where he has overseen tremendous fundraising and artifact re-

covery. Notably, he oversaw the restoration of a historic cannon which is now on display in the History Museum of Mobile.

A dedicated member of the Mobile, Alabama community, Robert was Mobile's Consul to Guatemala for twenty years and organized Mobile's first trade mission to Central America. For his efforts, he was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce's Achievement Award.

Robert served on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Small Business Administration. He was a member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Legion. He was named Alumnus of the Year in 2008 by Rhodes College; and served as Director of the Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer's Program. In 2007, Robert's outstanding contributions to the community were acknowledged when he received the Mobilian of the Year Award. In 2012, Robert received the distinguished honor of being named the 2012 Mobile Area Veteran of the Year.

Robert married the love of his life, Patricia Gentry, on June 2, 1962, and together they raised a son Sherard (Courtney Hollins) and a daughter Virginia. He is also survived by his beloved granddaughter, Courtney. Robert was an elder at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church where he taught Sunday school for many years. He also chaired the board of the Montreat Association.

On personal note, I am honored to call Robert and Pat Edington my dear friends and I am blessed to be influenced by their wise counsel and infectious commitment to community service. Robert led by example, dedicating his life to love of God, country, family and community. He was always willing to work to improve the lives of others. From his military career to his political and civic engagement, Robert has left an indelible mark on the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama. May we find comfort in knowing that his extraordinary legacy will live on in the many people he impacted.

On behalf of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exemplary life and accomplishments of Robert Edington.

HONORING CLIFFORD SPIEGELMAN, PH.D.

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 14 May 2020.

Dr. Spiegelman, known as Cliff to his family and friends, was born on 15 May 1948 in Long Island, New York, to Charlie and Doris Spiegelman.

In school, he was an accomplished athlete and won numerous awards for track and other sports. He also excelled in the classroom and pursued a career in academics, receiving his bachelor of science from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970, his master's degree in managerial economics from Northwestern University in 1973, and his Ph.D. in statistics and applied mathematics from Northwestern University in 1976.

Cliff started his career with the agency now known as the National Institute of Standards

and Technology, commonly called NIST. He later became a tenured professor at the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University.

Serving on the faculty at Texas A&M for over 30 years, Cliff became renowned in his field and a highly sought-after expert in the application of statistical expertise to forensic science, chemistry, and medicine. In 2009, he was named a distinguished professor of statistics, the university's highest rank for faculty. His contributions to the field of statistics were further recognized in his appointment as a regents professor in 2019.

Cliff was particularly known for his helpful nature and deep commitment to justice and fairness in the criminal justice system. He was nationally recognized for his research on statistical interpretation of criminal evidence, such as bullet fragment analysis and firearm tool marks.

He was a fierce advocate of accuracy by investigators to prevent false convictions. He further expanded his advocacy through his work with the Innocence Project, testifying pro bona in evidentiary admissibility hearings and providing research that played critical roles in overturning false convictions of innocent individuals.

His commitment to justice extended outside of the courtroom as well. He served on the Texas Forensic Science Commission as well as the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, where he worked to ensure that the death statistics of the Holocaust and other genocides are reliably reported.

Dr. Spiegelman leaves a professional legacy that is unmatched in his field. However, his proudest accomplishments were outside of the workplace.

Cliff married Dr. Katherine Bretzlaff in 1990, a fellow professor at Texas A&M. Together, they raised two daughters, Lindsey and Abigail, who each carry their parents' commitments to academic excellence, strong work ethic, and kindness to those around them.

In the tributes written by the many individuals and organizations positively impacted by Cliff's work, nearly all spoke of Cliff's pride in his family and his frequent excitement to share the achievements of his daughters.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Clifford Spiegelman's life was defined by his outstanding accomplishments as a professor, mentor, and expert in statistics, as well as his commitment to his family and friends. He will be forever remembered for his strong principles and commitment to excellence and as a devoted husband, father, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Spiegelman family. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman.

CASE FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, without question, student success starts in the classroom. For months, kitchen tables have turned into study areas, living